

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2002

Natural soda ash production in February was 775,000 metric tons, 9% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 245,000 tons, 6% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February was 1.21 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in January was 490,000

tons, 11% lower than the January 2001 level of 549,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2002 were 332,000 tons and 746 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through January 2002, compared with those of 2001, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 90% lower, exports 20% higher, ending stocks 1% higher, and apparent consumption 11% lower.

U.S. exports of soda ash during 2001 have been revised (Table 6).
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TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
2001:			
January	834	260	1,280
February	779	211	1,270
March	962	306	1,380
April	870	324	1,290
May	860	305	1,220
June	875	306	1,330
July	879	278	987
August	869	221	1,100
September	814	248	1,290
October	880	217	1,430
November	852	162	1,360
December	870	226	1,420
Total (January-February)	1,610	XX	2,550
Year total	10,300	XX	15,400
2002:			
January	856	262	1,430
February	775	245	1,210
Total	1,630	XX	2,630

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN JANUARY 2002 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	56,900	\$6,320	\$111
Japan	46,800	5,420	116
Canada	42,700	3,220	75
Brazil	25,800	3,920	152
Belgium	25,000	3,050	122
Indonesia	21,500	2,530	118
Taiwan	20,000	2,390	120
Venezuela	17,100	2,900	169
Korea, Republic of	14,000	1,760	125
Thailand	11,100	1,390	125
Other	51,100	6,680	131
Total	332,000	39,600	119

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ February 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	% of total
Argentina	8,760	3
Australia	7,020	2
Belgium	25,000	8
Brazil	25,800	8
Canada	42,700	13
China	10,500	3
Germany	19	(3/)
Indonesia	21,500	6
Japan	46,800	14
Korea, Republic of	14,000	4
Mexico	56,900	17
Philippines	8,700	3
Portugal	8,280	2
Spain	5,000	2
Taiwan	20,000	6
Thailand	11,100	3
Trinidad and Tobago	2,820	1
Venezuela	17,100	5
Total	332,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ February 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/ 2/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)
2001:		
January	7,400	\$810
February	3,830	473
March	5,990	750
April	3,880	429
May	2,950	364
June	2,050	262
July	1,270	162
August	1,590	193
September	1,800	239
October	1,350	186
November	788	114
December	474	82
Total	33,400	4,060
2002:		
January	746	130

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ February 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
2001:						
January	834,000	7,400	277,000	15,500	--	549,000
February	779,000	3,830	323,000	--	48,800	508,000
March	962,000	5,990	309,000	94,300	--	565,000
April	870,000	3,880	473,000	17,900	--	382,000
May	860,000	2,950	386,000	--	18,800	496,000
June	875,000	2,050	280,000	1,720	--	595,000
July	879,000	1,270	428,000 r/	--	28,400	481,000 r/
August	869,000	1,590	367,000 r/	--	56,700	561,000 r/
September	814,000	1,800	297,000 r/	26,600	--	492,000 r/
October	880,000	1,350	320,000	--	31,000	593,000
November	852,000	788	381,000	--	54,700	527,000
December	870,000	474	250,000 r/	64,000	--	556,000 r/
Total	10,300,000	33,400	4,090,000 r/	--	18,400	6,300,000 r/
2002:						
January	856,000	746	332,000	35,300	--	490,000
February	775,000	NA	NA	--	16,900	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

Note: Data discrepancies for January through May 2001 for Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, and Venezuela previously were adjusted and printed in the June 2001 Mineral Industry Surveys report. Additional discrepancies for the same countries were corrected and are shown as revisions. Approximately 340,000 tons of erroneous or omitted export data (about 330,000 tons through San Diego customs district to Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, and Venezuela; remainder through Columbia-Snake River customs district to Colombia, and through Houston-Galveston customs district to Venezuela) were adjusted from the U.S. Census Bureau's total of 4.43 million tons.

TABLE 6  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2001 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Argentina	--	11,700	10,700	--	9,400	11,000	8,790
Aruba	--	5	--	--	--	--	--
Australia	6,260	6,860	2	13,700	6,250	--	14,500
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium	--	--	9,510	14,400	31,600	--	28,600
Bolivia	--	700	--	600	1,200	--	--
Brazil	19,600	--	48,300	54,100	32,600	78	7,870
Canada	25,300	18,700	28,100	43,000	35,800	41,500	32,800
Chile	--	22,400	9,100	19,000	24,300	2,200	18,000
China	13,500	10,500	5,000	--	--	--	--
Colombia	--	--	9,220	--	12,100	--	11,000 r/
Costa Rica	--	--	3,000	--	3,000	--	2,010
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Egypt	169	--	--	--	--	--	--
El Salvador	--	--	--	23	--	--	--
Finland	17	--	--	--	--	--	--
France	7,500	--	11,100	--	9,500	--	--
Guatemala	--	--	--	19,900	--	--	5,020
Indonesia	--	33,000	28,000	64,500	16,500	21,100	20,500 r/
Italy	--	--	--	19,800	--	--	--
Japan	25,000	41,500	2,500	59,800	32,000	41,700	38,000
Jordan	--	25	--	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	28,500	26,300	25,400	21,500	21,900	21,200	24,900
Malaysia	5,000	15,000	9,000	49,100	5,000	--	31,000
Mexico	61,700	40,300	62,900	32,300	46,500	60,100	54,800
Netherlands	38	2,080	--	--	9,500	12,500	--
New Zealand	--	--	--	7,500	--	--	--
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	4,760	--
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,000
Panama	20	--	--	--	--	--	2,000
Peru	--	1,500	1,800	--	2,000	--	2,400
Philippines	13,000	13,000	7,000	--	--	6,500	13,000
Portugal	--	--	--	--	8,220	--	--
Russia	2	--	450	569	244	369	--
Saint Kitts and Nevis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Saudi Arabia	14,000	15,000	--	16,000	18,700	--	22,000
South Africa	22,800	--	--	--	--	8,000	--
Spain	--	12,000	22,000	7,520	8,220	14,800	--
Taiwan	12,000	17,500	--	12,800	--	20,100	19,500
Thailand	22,400	27,400	7,700	11,600	13,800	14,500	19,900
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,780	--	--	2,800	--	--
United Arab Emirates	--	5,000	--	5,800	6,800	--	14,000
United Kingdom	--	249	--	--	--	--	249
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	28,100	--	27,100 r/
Vietnam	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	--
Total	277,000	323,000	309,000	473,000	386,000	280,000	428,000 r/

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 6-- Continued  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2001 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	August	September	October	November	December	Total	% of total
Argentina	10,000	--	17,000	--	--	78,500	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	7	12	(3/)
Australia	--	--	20,100	4,980	--	72,700	2
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	17	--	17	(3/)
Belgium	10,800	9,750	9,600	--	--	114,000	3
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	2,500	(3/)
Brazil	59,000	--	36,500	33,000	4,000	295,000	7
Canada	38,500	35,800	43,300	43,300	36,000	422,000	10
Chile	--	27,500	--	22,500	26,200	171,000	4
China	5,000	10,000	(3/)	12,800	20,300	77,100	2
Colombia	--	--	10,900	11,200	11,000 r/	65,400 r/	2
Costa Rica	--	6,000	--	3	6,000	20,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	4,470	--	--	4,470	(3/)
Egypt	--	--	--	--	--	169	(3/)
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	23	(3/)
Finland	17	--	--	--	--	34	(3/)
France	12,400	7,500	12,000	--	--	60,000	1
Guatemala	--	2,500	--	3,000	2,000	32,400	1
Indonesia	20,500	20,000 r/	22,000	19,000	19,000	284,000 r/	7
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	19,800	(3/)
Japan	33,100	46,700	8,600	52,200	--	381,000	9
Jordan	--	--	--	--	--	25	(3/)
Korea, Republic of	21,700	37,700	150	35,300	--	264,000	6
Malaysia	4,000	--	10	15,500	8,270	142,000	3
Mexico	47,900	46,200	52,900	50,200	47,700	604,000	15
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	24,100	1
New Zealand	--	--	7,500	4,980	--	20,000	(3/)
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	4,760	(3/)
Pakistan	5,000	--	--	--	--	15,000	(3/)
Panama	--	11	--	--	1,500	3,530	(3/)
Peru	--	--	--	1,450	1,700	10,900	(3/)
Philippines	8,800	9,610	--	--	9,750	80,700	2
Portugal	--	7,160	--	--	--	15,400	(3/)
Russia	--	1,620	6	11	762	4,030	(3/)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	--	--	5	--	--	5	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	16,000	--	16,200	24,800	--	143,000	3
South Africa	--	6,500	8,000	8,040	8,000	61,400	2
Spain	--	7,100	--	--	11,600	83,300	2
Taiwan	18,900	--	17,600	19,400	--	138,000	3
Thailand	20,000	12,100	10,800	19,200	11,500	191,000	5
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,850	13	--	2,880	11,300	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	7,000	--	6,000	--	--	44,600	1
United Kingdom	--	249	--	--	--	747	(3/)
Venezuela	19,400 r/	--	15,900	--	21,700	112,000 r/	3
Vietnam	9,000	--	--	--	--	17,000	(3/)
Total	367,000 r/	297,000 r/	320,000	381,000	250,000 r/	4,090,000 r/	100

r/ Revised. -- Zero.

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3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey using data and information from the Journal of Commerce PIERs trade service and industry sources.